

01-04-00

what is claimed is:-

~~CLAIMS~~

1. Antistatic workwear comprising a plurality of components (10, 11, 12, 31, 32, 33, 34 or 35) incorporating electrically conductive yarns (21), and an electrically conductive member (20, 20A, 20B, 20C, 37, 46 or 130) bridging the junction between adjacent components (10, 11, 12, 31, 32, 33, 34 or 35), characterised in that the electrical conductivity between adjacent components is enhanced by forming the electrically conductive member (20, 20A, 20B, 20C, 37, 46 or 130) from a strip or tape incorporating a plurality of electrically conductive yarns (22 or 131) which are of larger diameter than the conductive yarns (21), have alternate portions exposed at opposite sides of the strip or tape, and are pressed into conducting engagement with at least some of the conductive yarns (21) in both adjacent components.
2. Antistatic workwear, according to Claim 1, in which the conductive yarns (22 or 131) are sharply bent by the structure of the strip or tape to promote a corona discharge.
3. Antistatic workwear, according to Claim 1 or 2, in which the conductive yarns (21) are more widely spaced than the conductive yarns (22).
4. Antistatic workwear, according to any preceding claim, in which the conductive yarns (21) have a diameter of between 0.01 - 0.05mm.
5. Antistatic workwear, according to any preceding claim, in which the conductive yarns (22) have a diameter of between 0.5 - 1.0mm.
6. Antistatic workwear, according to any preceding claim, in which the strip or tape is stitched (19A, 19B) to each of the adjacent components (10, 11, 12, 31, 32, 33, 34 or 35).
7. Antistatic workwear, according to any preceding claim, in which at least some of the yarns (21 or 22) are formed from a carbon-coated polyamide or a conductive polyester.
8. Antistatic workwear, according to any preceding claim, in which the strip or tape is incorporated longitudinally into a seam (15 or 16) formed between adjacent components (10, 11, 12, 31, 32, 33, 34 or 35).

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9. Antistatic workwear, according to any preceding claim, in which the strip or tape extends transversely of a seam (15 or 16) formed between adjacent components (10, 11, 12, 31, 32, 33, 34 or 35).

10. Antistatic workwear, according to Claim 9, in which a plurality of strips or tapes extend transversely across the same seam (15 or 16).

11. Antistatic workwear, according to any preceding claim, in which at least one strip or tape (20) is connected to a terminal (25) for connecting the workwear to earth.

12. Antistatic workwear, according to any preceding claim, which includes a component (42) defining a leg portion of the workwear and a shoe or boot (44) defining another portion of the workwear, and the boot (44) is connected to the component (42) by a fastener (48A, 48B) to provide electrical continuity.

13. Antistatic workwear, according to any preceding claim, in which the components comprise a plurality of separable components (31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 44) and the strips or tapes incorporate fastening means (25, 38, 48A, 48B) for interconnecting the separable components (31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 44) to provide electrical continuity.

14. Antistatic workwear, according to any preceding claim, in which one or more of the strips or tapes provide an electrically conducting path extending from a cuff (11A) to boots (44).

15. Antistatic workwear, according to any preceding claim, having a leg portion (34) arranged in conducting engagement with an electrically conductive stirrup (35) arranged to extend beneath the wearer's foot in electrical contact with an article of footwear having a conductive sole.

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